

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 MCT-01 (ISO) W
-----033624 231540Z /53

R 220813Z APR 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6049
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0847

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, IZ, LE
SUBJECT: IRAQI TROOPS IN SOUTH LEBANON

1. LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THAT FIGURES ON NUMBER OF IRAQIS FIGHTING IN LEBANON ARE GUESSWORK. THE ONE HARD FIGURE HE WILL VOUCH FOR IS THAT IRAQ HAS SENT 500 MEN FROM ITS ELITE SPECIAL FORCES. ACCURATE ESTIMATES OF TOTAL NUMBER OF IRAQIS ARE IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO VARIETY OF FACTORS, INCLUDING: PRESENCE IN LEBANON BEFORE ISRAELI INVASION OF IRAQIS AND PALESTINIANS BELONGING TO THE ALF, ENTRY INTO LEBANON OF PALESTINIANS BEARING IRAQI PASSPORTS OF CONVENIENCE, PRESENCE AMONG "IRAQI VOLUNTEERS" OF PALESTINIANS FROM KUWAIT.

2. AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT IRAQI TROOPS TOOK ALONG SOME SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY BUT THAT SYRIANS REFUSED TO
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ALLOW THEM TO IMPORT ARMORED VEHICLES. HE SAID SYRIANS CONTINUE TO ALLOW AT LEAST A TRICKLE OF SUPPLIES TO TRANSIT SYRIA TO LEBANON-BASED IRAQI UNITS.

3. SYRIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR DENIES TO ME THAT HIS GOVERNMENT ALLOWS ANY IRAQI SUPPLIES TO TRANSIT SYRIA.

4. DUTCH CHARGE STATES THAT KLM RECENTLY FOUND ITSELF WITH PLANELOAD OF "IRAQI VOLUNTEERS" ON REGULAR FLIGHT TO BEIRUT WHICH DOES NOT HAVE BAGHDAD BOARDING PRIVILEGES. GOI HAD GIVEN SPECIAL PERMITS TO THESE PASSENGERS. IN THIS CASE, WHILE MOST WERE YOUNG IRAQIS, SOME FIFTY WERE CARRYING CUBAN OR SOMALI PASSPORTS. LEBANESE AUTHORITIES DID NOT ALLOW PASSENGERS TO DISEMBARK, AND KLM WAS FORCED TO TAKE THEM ON TO ATHENS.

5. BAGHDAD MEDIA REMAINS SILENT ON ACTIVITIES OF IRAQIS IN LEBANON AND CONTINUES TO ATTACK SYRIAN ROLE. UNIFIL ALSO RECEIVES SOME CRITICISM, BUT SADDAM HUSSEIN HAS REPORTEDLY ASSURED BOTH FRENCH AND IRANIAN AMBASSADORS THAT IRAQ HAS NO HOSTILE INTENT TOWARD FRENCH AND IRANIAN TROOPS UNDER UN FLAG.
MACK

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Message Attributes

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